

Please cancel claim 2.

Sub C2

3. (Amended) [An] The isolated [functional] protein [according to] of claim 1 further comprising [an] the amino acid sequence [with 70-100% homology to the amino acid sequence] depicted in SEQ ID NO. 4.

Please cancel claim 4.

Sub C3

5. (Amended) [An] isolated [functional] protein [according to] claim 1 [comprising an amino acid sequence with 70-100% homology to] wherein said isolated protein is a fragment, said fragment comprising the amino acids 54-362 of SEQ ID NO. 2.

6. (Amended) [An] The isolated [functional] protein [according to] claim [5] 1 [comprising an amino acid sequence with 70-100% homology to] wherein said isolated protein is a fragment comprising the amino acids 274-362 of SEQ ID NO. 2.

Please cancel claim 7

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to [any of the claims 1-7] claim 1.

9. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid sequence [according to] of claim 8 with 70-100% homology to the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO. 1.

10. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid sequence [according to] of claim [8] 2 with 70-100% homology to the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO. 3.

Please cancel claim 11.

12. (Amended) [Use] A method of modulating CD40 signaling pathways of a subject, the method comprising:

providing to the subject a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of an isolated [functional] protein [and/]or a [functional] fragment thereof [according to any of the claims 1-7 as a medicament] comprising an amino acid sequence with 70-100% homology to the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO. 2 or a fragment thereof.

13. [Use of an isolated functional protein] The method according to [any of the claims 1-7 and/or a functional fragment thereof to treat] claim 12 wherein the modulation of CD40 signaling pathways comprises the treatment of a disease selected from the group of diseases consisting of TRAF-related, CD40-related, NF-KB related and[/or] Jun (kinase)-related diseases.

14. (Amended) The [use] method according to claim 13[in which], wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, [arthritis] arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus [erythematosus]erythematosis and[/or] graft rejection.

15. (Amended) The [use of an isolated functional protein] method according to [any of the claims 1-7 and/or a functional fragment thereof to sensitize] claim 12 wherein the modulation of CD40 signaling pathways sensitizes tumor cells to anti-tumor treatments.

16. (Amended) [The use of an]A method of screening for compounds that interfere with the interaction of the isolated [functional] protein [according to of the claims 1-7]of claim 1 and/or a functional fragment thereof [to screen for compounds that interfere with the interaction of said protein(s)] with other protein components of the TRAF, CD40 or NF-KB related pathway, said method comprising:

interacting said isolated protein and/or functional fragment thereof with said other protein components, and
detecting the compounds' affect on said interaction.

Q5 17. (Amended) A method for screening compounds, said method comprising the use of a protein according to claim [16] 1 to screen for compounds that modulate the activity of CD40 receptor associated proteins.

18. (Amended) A compound [isolated with the method] produced by the method according to claim [17]16.

19. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more isolated functional proteins [according to any of the claims 1-7]claim 1 and/or functional fragments thereof and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier material..

Please cancel claim 21.

Please add the following new claims:

2/ 22. A method of treating CD40 and NF-KB related diseases selected from the group of diseases consisting of atherosclerosis, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus and graft rejection, the method comprising:

providing to a subject an effective amount of an isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence with 70-100% homology to the amino acids 274-362 of SEQ ID NO. 2.

Remarks

The application is to be amended as previously set forth. All amendments, including claim cancellations, are made without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments are made to bring the application closer to United States practice, such as, by example, removing multiple claim dependencies. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendment.